

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W  
----- 034679

R 231241Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3095

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2286

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, KS

SUBJ: VISIT OF ROK VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: SEOUL 5224; SINGAPORE 3068

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ROK VICE MIN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SHIN-YONG LHO SEEMED GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH HIS  
SRI LANKA VISIT ALTHOUGH GSL WAS NON-COMMITTAL RE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND  
OBSERVER STATUS AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. LHO OFFERED  
GSL THREE POSSIBLE FORMULAE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND INDICATED ROK WOULD BE SATIS-  
FIED WITH EITHER OBSERVER OR NON-OBSERVER STATUS AT  
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AS LONG AS IT TREATED EQUALLY WITH  
DPRK. HE BELIVES GSL FAVORS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND  
WILL ADOPT IMPARTIAL STANCE AT LIMA RE OBSERVER STATUS.  
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EMBASSY ASSESSMENT IS THAT GSL UNLIKELY MAKE ANY FORMAL

MOVE RE RECOGNITION UNTIL AFTER LIMA, WILL FOLLOW CONSENSUS  
ON OBSERVER ISSUE AND ABSTAIN ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ROK VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SHIN-YONG  
LHO, LEFT COLOMBO JULY 21 AFTER SIX-DAY VISIT WHICH HE  
CONSIDERED GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL ALTHOUGH HE RECEIVED  
NO COMMITMENTS FROM SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT.

3. LHO, WHO MET TWICE WITH AMBASSADOR DURING HIS VISIT,  
SAID HE HAD THREE OBJECTIVES: (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ROK AND GSL (B) PARITY  
WITH DPRK AS EITHER OBSERVER OR NON-OBSERVER STATUS  
AT NEXT YEAR'S NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO, AND  
(C) SATISFACTORY SRI LANKA VOTE ON KOREAN RESOLUTION  
AT UNGA.

4. RE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, LHO SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED  
THAT GSL WOULD BE ONLY NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRY IN ASIA  
WHICH DID NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK  
(ASIA FOR THIS PURPOSE EXCLUDES PAKISTAN AND ASSUMES  
SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
BY END OF MONTH). ALSO STRESSED THAT SOME 94 COUNTRIES  
HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK AS AGAINST 80 FOR  
DPRK AND, WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT, HELD OUT PROSPECTS  
FOR ROK ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SHOULD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
BE ESTABLISHED. RECALLING DPRK HAD RENEWED ITS  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GSL IN MARCH AND THAT DPRK  
AMBASSADOR IN DELHI NOW ACCREDITED TO COLOMBO, LHO  
SUGGESTED THREE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO GSL:  
(A) ROK AMBASSADOR IN DELHI TO BE ACCREDITED TO COLOMBO  
AND ROK TO CLOSE ITS TRADE REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE HERE;  
(B) CHARGES D'AFFAIRES OF BOTH ROK AND DPRK TO BE ESTABLISHED  
IN COLOMBO WITH STAFFS OF EQUAL SIZE; (C) BOTH TO HAVE  
RESIDENT AMBASSADORS IN COLOMBO.

5. LHO SAID HE HAD PUT HIS ARGUMENTS FORCEFULLY TO  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY AND MDFA  
OFFICIALS TISSA WIJEYERATNE AND ARTHUR BASNAYAKE,  
AS WELL AS TO JUSTICE MINISTER FELIX DIAS BANDARA-  
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NAIKE WHO WILL HEAD GSL'S DELEGATION TO NEXT MONTH'S  
NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN LIMA. GSL  
OFFICIALS ASSURED LHO THEY WOULD ACTIVELY CONSIDER  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT HAVE NO SPECIFIC PROMISED  
TIMETABLE. JAYAKODY HAD SUGGESTED THAT, AS FIRST  
STEP, ROK MIGHT TRY TO BALANCE ITS TRADE RELATIONS  
WITH GSL WHICH WERE NOW STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF ROK.

6. RE OBSERVER STATUS, LHO SAID GSL OFFICIALS APPEARED GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC BUT RAISED QUESTIONS RE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA AND EVIDENCED SENSITIVITY RE REACTIONS OF OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, SPECICALLY MENTIONING ALGERIA, YOGOSLAVIA AND CUBA. HIS IMPRESSION WAS GSL WOULD OT TAKE LEAD ON THIS SUBJECT AT LIMA, BUT IF ISSUES AROSE, WOULD TAKE POSITION THAT IF DPRK WERE ADMITTED ORK SHOULD RECEIVE EQUAL TREATMENT. HE SEEMED GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THIS POSTURE, NOTING THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES AT LIMA WOULD LEND POSTIVE SUPPORT TO ROK POSITION, INCLUDING INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE. SINCE LIMA MEETING WOULD REAFH DECISIONS ON BASIS CONSENSUS, HE HOPED THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT NOT BE AGREEMENT TO BESTOW OBSERVER STATUS ON ROK, SUCH STATUS WOULD NOT BE BESTOWED UNILATERALLY UPON DPRK.

7. RE UNGA RESOLUTION, LHO THOUGH GSL, AT MINIMUM, WOULD ABSTAIN ON FRINGLY RESOLUTION.

8. LHO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD PRESSEE FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARAIKE, FOREIGN OFFICE HAD TURNED THIS DOWN ON GROUNDS HIS RANK WAS NOT OF APPROPRIATE LEVEL. HE HAD BROUGHT LETTER TO MRS. BANDARANAIKE FROM ROK PRIME MINISTER AND WAS PREPARED TO OFFER MRS. BANDARANAIKE SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN ADDITION TO 100 PUMPS RECENTLY SUPPLIED BY ROK BUT DID NOT PUT FORWARD ASSIS- TANCE OFFER SINCE MEETING NOT ARRANGED. HOWEVER, HE MET SECOND TIME WITH JUSTICE MINISTER BANDARANAIKE WHO AGREED CONVAW LETTER PROMPTLY TO PM.

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9. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LHO DID OT GET APPOINTMENT WITH MRS. BANDARANAIKE, HE HAD ACCESS TO OTHER KEY

GSL OFFICIALS, WAS HONORED AT DINNER BY DEPUTY MINISTER JAYAKODY, AND RESPECTABLE NUMBER OF GSL MINISTERS (NOTABLY EXCLUDING MARXISTS) TURNED OUT FOR RECEPTION GIVEN BY RESIDENT ROK TRADE REPRESENTATIVE. UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, GSL MIGHT BE DISPOED ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK, BOTH TO BALANCE ITS RELATIONS WITH DPRK AND IN HOPE OF OBTAIN- ING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE SRI LANKA WILL HOST NEXT YEAR'S NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING, GSL IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO ATTITUDES OTHER NON-ALIGNED LEADERS, AND IS LIKELY TO TREAD WARILY BEFORE TAKING ACTION WHICH MIGHT OFFEND COUNTRIES SUCH AS ALGERIA. SRI

LANKA THEREFORE MAY POSTPONE ANY DECISION RE RECOG-  
NITION AT LEAST UNTIL AFHWR IT TESTS TEMPERATURE  
AT LIME AND IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW CONSENSUS RE OBSERVER  
STATUS. PRESENT PROPSECT IS FOR ABSTENTION ON  
FPIENGLY RESOLUTION.  
VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

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